

Hancock Central School District

The Wildcat Pledge: We nurture and empower each learner's unlimited capacity to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.

Our Vision: Striving for excellence as an innovative, advanced and reflective school community.

Core Beliefs:

- Our mindset: We do whatever it takes to ensure continuous growth because we believe each of us can learn.
- Collaboration: We work better together, always.
- Innovation: We embrace creativity and advancing technology.
- Integrity: We trust, respect, support and care for one another.
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- Student centered: We put students first.

August, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Hancock Central School District will be open for full-time in person learning starting Thursday, September 8, 2022. Hancock's Board of Education and administration are committed to providing in-person instruction to all students during the 2022-2023 school year. Remote learning options will be available, but only for those with verifiable medical hardships.

The New York Education Department, as our oversight agency, has advised school districts to follow the updated [CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html), with Delaware County Public Health directives to determine operational procedures for the 2022-2023 school year.

Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html>

When 2022-2023 begins, school will look much like it did when 2021-2022 ended in late June. We will continue to maintain a safe environment while providing as much normalcy as possible. Our primary goal is to keep students and staff safe and physically present in school. Therefore, HCS D is relying on our parents/guardians to ensure children are not experiencing signs/symptoms of COVID-19 before boarding a school bus or leaving home. Students and staff should notify HCS D when they develop symptoms. Please note that face coverings may be worn but are no longer required anywhere on campus.

We ask for your continued support and cooperation in following all school safety procedures. Together, we are confident we will enjoy another successful school year in 2022-2023!

Sincerely,



Terrance P. Dougherty, Ph.D.
Hancock Central School District
Superintendent of Schools

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Hancock CSD COVID-19 Reopening Procedures 2022-2023 | Recommendations Only

Sources: NYS Department of Health, Delaware County Public Health, NYS Education Department

**Tentative and subject to change per mandates issued by the abovementioned parties and the HCSD Board of Education*

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES

Face Coverings

- Face coverings are optional for all students, staff and visitors inside schools and on school buses, regardless of vaccination status (effective March 2, 2022).
- Face coverings are also optional for all students, staff and visitors when outdoors on school property, regardless of vaccination status.
- Following a COVID-19 infection, face coverings are encouraged upon return from isolation during Days 6-10.
- HCSD recommends that individuals who have been identified as a "close contact" of someone infected with COVID-19 wear a face covering for 10 days after exposure, regardless of vaccination status. (Exception: This recommendation does not apply to "close contacts" who have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days).

Contact Tracing

- Contact tracing is no longer required under any circumstances.
- Anyone who is feeling ill is strongly encouraged to stay home and see a healthcare provider.

Quarantine

- Contacts are no longer required to quarantine as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- Instead, it is recommended that those individuals wear a mask for 10 days and test twice after exposure, regardless of vaccination status.

Social Distancing

- Minimum of 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms is encouraged, where possible.
- General Music, Chorus and Orchestra should attempt to maintain 3 feet social distancing.
- When indoors, Physical Education should attempt to maintain 3 feet social distancing.
- Students should safely distance on buses, where possible.

Ventilation

- HCSD has improved ventilation inside schools by purchasing and installing 38 enhanced unit ventilators in the middle/high school, frequently running exhaust fans, repairing and replacing exhaust fans, upgrading air filters, and utilizing air purifiers in offices and rooms, where needed.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- HCSD will continue to regularly clean and disinfect school buildings, buses and high-touch areas.

COVID-19 Testing Program

- All community members and school district stakeholders are advised to test for COVID-19 at their discretion.
- HCSD will provide home test kits to all stakeholders upon request.
- HCSD staff will administer COVID-19 tests upon request.
- Students and staff who are or become symptomatic and/or test positive for COVID-19 are asked to isolate for 5 days at home, per CDC/NYSDOH/NYSED isolation guidance. Those with symptoms may resume attending school after 5 days if they are fever-free without fever reducing medicine for 24 hours and their symptoms are improving. It is strongly suggested that face coverings be worn through day 10 following a re-entry into school. CDC guidance indicates that people can use the test-based strategy outlined in its isolation guidance to potentially shorten the duration of post-isolation mask use. *Please read the FAQ on these points.* **Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 should immediately contact a healthcare provider and the Department of Health.**

Leave for an Employee Being Quarantined due to COVID:

New York law states: *“For public employers, each officer or employee who is subject to a mandatory or precautionary order of quarantine or isolation issued by the state of New York, the department of health, local board of health, or any governmental entity duly authorized to issue such order due to COVID-19 shall be provided with at least fourteen days of paid sick leave during any mandatory or precautionary order of quarantine or isolation.”*^[1] Chapter 25 of the Laws of 2020, S8091 § 1) (d).

- This applies only to the employee being quarantined, not a spouse, child, or other family member of the employee.
- The quarantine must be ordered by the government. Quarantine recommendations by doctors, other medical providers, and self-imposed quarantines do not trigger the leave.
- The law probably gives a new 14 days of paid leave each time the employee is subject to a mandatory government quarantine or isolation order. The New York Law is silent on the issue, however the sponsor’s memo states that the purpose of the law is to guarantee paid

^[1] Chapter 25 of the Laws of 2020, S8091 § 1) (d).

leave during a quarantine because it is one of the most effective public health measures to stop the spread of COVID.

- There is currently a cap of 3 lifetime uses per employee. The second and third orders must be based on a positive COVID test and the employee must submit documentation from a licensed medical provider or testing facility attesting the positive result.

*Sources: NYS Department of Health, Delaware County Public Health, NYS Education Department
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August, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Hancock Central School District students in Grades PK-12 will return to in-person instruction five days a week starting Thursday, September 8, 2022.

Enclosed, please find the application for students requesting consideration of remote instruction for a verifiable medical hardship, to be confirmed by a licensed medical practitioner and reviewed by the Hancock Central School District Medical Director.

For more information, please call the HS/MS Main Office at 607-637-1305 or the Elementary Main Office at 607-637-1219.

Sincerely,

Julie Bergman
MS/HS Principal
jbergman@hancock.stier.org

Thomas Durkot
Elementary School Principal
tdurkot@hancock.stier.org

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Request for Remote Instruction 2022-2023

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Medical reason for request for remote instruction: _____

Name of Medical Provider: _____

Parent/Guardian (signature): _____ Date: _____

To Be Completed by Medical Provider

Reason student is medically unable to attend in-person instruction: _____

Date of last examination: _____

Date student is expected to resume in person instruction: _____

Medical Provider (signature): _____ Date: _____

To be completed by HCSD's Chief Medical Officer

I have reviewed the attached request for remote instruction and find:

a. I need the following information to approve the request: _____

b. The request is not approved.

c. The request is approved.

Chief Medical Officer (signature): _____ Date: _____

Building Principal (signature): _____ Date: _____

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Request for Remote Instruction 2022-2023

Please complete the attached form and submit the required documentation of the medical necessity of remote instruction for your student. **Your student's medical provider must sign the form.**

Requests for remote instruction will not be accepted on any other form than the attached form. **A new form will need to be completed by your medical provider every 30 days.**

Once the form is completed and submitted, the Chief Medical Officer will review the request and, if appropriate, approve it. Additional documentation may be requested prior to a final decision being made.

You will be notified if the request is approved.